

Message Text

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40

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 AGR-20 INT-08 DRC-01 /155 W

----- 101549

R 311114Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8237

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1222

NAIROBI FOR REDSO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SU

SUBJ: TALK WITH GOS FONMIN RE RAHAD PROJECT

REF: STATE 80856 (PARA 5)

1. DURING DISCUSSION WITH FONMIN KHALID MAY 30, I SAID I HAD BEEN SORRY LEARN IN WASHINGTON HE EVIDENTLY POORLY BRIEFED BY HIS STAFF RE USG ROLE RAHAD PROJECT PRIOR HIS CONVERSATION WITH ASST SEC EASUM (REFTEL. EXPRESSING REGRET MATTER HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN UP

WITH THIS EMBASSY, I TOLD KHALID I HAD IN RECENT MONTHS HAD NO ADVERSE COMMENT RE USG PARTICIPATION. KHALID REPLIED HE HAD BEEN SO STRUCK BY DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THIS BRIEFING AND WHAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY ASSIST SECRETARY THAT HE HAD CHECKED INTO MATTER ON HIS

RETURN. IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT HAD AGAIN CLAIMED THAT DELAY IN PROJECT DUE TO SLOW USG PROCUREMENT.

2. REITERATING TO FONMIN THAT NO SUCH INFO HAD EVER BEEN CONVEYED THIS EMBASSY, I SPECULATED THAT GOS WORKING LEVEL HAD PERHAPS SPECIFICALLY SOUGHT AVOID US HERE OUT OF AWARENESS THAT WE FOLLOWING STATUS AND PROGRESS RAHAD SCHEME CLOSELY AND MIGHT
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HAVE BEEN ABLE EFFECTIVELY REFUTE SUDANESE ARGUMENTS. I STRESSED

TO KHALID THAT, SHOULD USG BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SOME AVOIDABLE DELAY, I WOULD WISH BE INFORMED IMMEDIATELY IN ORDER DO WHAT I COULD CORRECT MATTERS. BY SAME TOKEN, I HOPED USG WOULD NOT BE USED AS COVER FOR ANY DELAYS BY OTHERS. KHALID SAID HE WOULD HAVE RECORD EXAMINED FURTHER AND WOULD SEE IT BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION IF FACTS AS KNOWN TO SUDANESE APPEARED TO WARRANT. I REPLIED I HAD NO WISH SEE PAST HISTORY DREDGED UP ON THIS MATTER BUT MERELY DESIRED ASSURE THAT ALL PARTIES WOULD BE OPERATING IN FUTURE FROM THE SAME BODY OF FACT. KHALID INDICATED HE UNDERSTOOD.

3. COMMENT: WE STRONGLY SUSPECT IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE BEEN USING ALLEGED DELAYS ON PART USG AS COVER FOR ITS OWN INACCURATE ASSESEMENT EXCAVATION TIMETABLE WITH INDADEQUATE CZECH EQUIPMENT. MY EXCHANGE WITH FONMIN WAS CANDID AND GOOD-NATURED, AND I WOULD HOPE WILL RESULT IN GREATER TENDENCY ON HIS PART REFRAIN FROM PURSUING RED HERRINGS WITH TOP LEVEL USG OFFICIAL UNTIL HE FIRST AWARE MATTER DISCUSSED WITH THIS EMBASSY AND REAL SUDANESE CASE FOR COMPLAINT IN FACT EXISTS.
BREWER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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